



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**LACONIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT CRIMES**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that Douglas **ABERNATHY**, 46, of 102 Court Street, Laconia, NH, pleaded guilty late yesterday morning to a two-count information for identity theft crimes.

The information to which Abernathy pleaded guilty charges that he used the birth certificate of another person, attempting to obtain a Social Security Number under an assumed identity. Abernathy admitted in court that this was the birth certificate of an Indiana resident who died in 1966. Abernathy claimed the Indiana resident's birth certificate was his own. The offense was committed at the Social Security Administration office in Laconia between April of 2004 and January of 2005.

The charges and apprehension of Abernathy resulted from Abernathy's activities being brought to the attention of the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General. A subsequent investigation by Special Agents of the Office of Inspector General, resulted in Abernathy's apprehension.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono highly commended the Social Security Administration, stating, "The vigilance of the Social Security Administration personnel who first detected the fraud, followed by the hard work of the Special Agents of the Office of Inspector General, stands as a fine example of law enforcement work at its best. This should serve as a warning to anyone contemplating identity fraud that they will be detected, apprehended, and prosecuted."

Abernathy faces possible maximum prison terms of between five and fifteen years and maximum fines of \$250,000.00. Abernathy's sentencing hearing was set by U.S. District Court Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for October 24, 2005, at 1:30 P.M.. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alfred Rubega.